

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO

FROM THE UNDERGROUND

June 13, 1975

We join you in mourning the death of Popeye Jackson, a man who had 19 years of his life stolen from him by the prison system. Popeye Jackson dedicated his life to fighting for prisoners, against a racist and inhumane system.

Only the ruling class--those who exploit and oppress the people, those who ceaselessly try to divide the people against themselves, to frighten and confuse us, and to crush us--gains from his murder.

We are with you in your sorrow.

A luta continua!

WEATHER UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION

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DATE: June 12, 1975

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY: SLA Strategic Command

SUBJECT: The Executions of Popeye Jackson and Sally Voye

TO THOSE WHO WOULD BEAR THE HOPES AND FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE, LET THE VOICE OF THEIR GUNS EXPRESS THE WORDS OF FREEDOM.

INFORMANTS

"Our worst enemies are the spies who infiltrate our ranks. Any who are discovered must be punished by death, as also must deserters who inform the police of what they know."

-- Carlos Marighela

"All paid or unpaid informants operating within the community against the people and the guerrilla forces are sentenced without trial to immediate death."

-- SLA Codes of War

Being an informer is a deadly serious offense against the people and the revolution. The process of denouncing and administering revolutionary justice to informers is also deadly serious. In all cases, concrete evidence of complicity with pig agents must be known and presented to support the action.

It is not sufficient to base accusations on subjective analysis or upon details of opportunistic personal behavior. If an execution is carried out without a sound analysis, then confusion and disunity are created within the Left and throughout the community. Even if the person executed is a pig, if the act is not clearly understood by the people, it will create a serious obstruction to the building of unity between the Guerrilla Front (underground) and the Mass Front (aboveground). The result is the division of Left forces and the creation of sectarian infighting when we should be united to fight the enemy.

If the person is not a pig, her or his execution is then nothing more than a criminal act, and is therefore indefensible.

POPEYE JACKSON AND SALLY VOYE: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

On June 3, 1975 the NWLF issued an open letter to Popeye Jackson and the people asking him to respond to questions they had about his revolutionary practice. We recognize the seriousness of the allegations in the letter and we believe that it was Popeye's responsibility to respond to them. It is our information that he fully intended to do this.

On June 8, 1975 Popeye Jackson and Sally Voye were executed. There was immediate suspicion, especially within the UPU, that the action was carried out by police agents. Two days later a communique was delivered to the San Francisco Chronicle by a group claiming the action in the name of the NWLF. The communique said that Popeye had been executed for working as a pig agent. UPU's response to the communique was a denunciation of the NWLF. The next day the NWLF issued a communique denying responsibility for the act. They restated their allegations against Popeye, explaining that any evidence they had was not enough to warrant them carrying out an execution. They called on the people who carried out the action to present evidence that would prove that Popeye deserved to be executed.

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POPEYE JACKSON

We have long considered Popeye Jackson to be a friend and comrade. We supported his work in the prison movement, and his outspoken stance in critically supporting guerrilla fighters. Popeye was constantly under harassment from the pigs because of his uncompromising position in support of armed struggle and the rights of the convicted class. About Sally Voye, we have no knowledge other than what we have read in the pig media.

At this point there is no conclusive proof about whether the executions of Popeye and Sally were carried out by guerrillas or by police counter-intelligence agents. The communique claiming responsibility for the act was totally incomplete. It didn't detail any acts of collaboration on Popeye's part which would justify his execution. It made certain allegations that brought into question Popeye's relationship with the Adult Authority, but presented no concrete information which would prove their allegations. This communique was also incomplete in its explanation of the execution of Sally Voye. It alluded to the possibility that she interfered with Popeye's execution, but failed to give any explanation of what the nature of her interference was. It therefore implied that she was simply IN THE WAY, and was apparently executed for no reason other than being an innocent bystander.

At this point we don't believe that Popeye was a pig. We support the NWLF's call for an analysis of this situation from our captured comrades in prison and for an explanation of why he was executed from the people who did it. If this action can't be further explained we have no choice but to conclude that his execution was either carried out by counter-intelligence agents or by horribly misguided "revolutionaries".

TO COMRADES IN THE ABOVEGROUND MOVEMENT:

The Left must constantly be aware of the lengths to which the pigs will go in order to sabotage the revolutionary movement. Operation Phoenix in Viet Nam and the recent revelations of COINTELPRO operations in the U.S. are perfect illustrations of this. We clearly understand what it means to have our leaders killed by the enemy. This is the way the pigs have always operated: George Jackson, Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, Sam Melville and our six comrades, just to name a few.

The UPU clearly had this in mind when they made their first comments concerning Popeye's death. But when the communique arrived which claimed responsibility for the execution, UPU seemed to ignore the past practice of the pigs and forget the past practice of the NWLF. The New World Liberation Front has demonstrated a high degree of tactical sophistication and political understanding in all their actions. The superficial quality of this first communique should not have led the UPU to conclude absolutely that the NWLF executed Popeye. Only days before the execution was carried out, at least 100 counter-intelligence agents under the pseudonym of "U.S. Treasury Agents" were sent from Washington D.C. to the San Francisco Bay Area. Their directive was to destroy and discredit guerrilla forces in the Bay Area, specifically the NWLF. Since the arrival of these agents, Popeye Jackson was murdered under suspicious circumstances and a powerful anti-personnel bomb was discovered at a high school graduation in San Jose.

We cannot discount the possibility that these acts were carried out by the enemy to destroy the prison movement and discredit guerrilla forces. Revolutionaries must be committed to maintaining objectivity in analyzing guerrilla actions. They must recognize the past practice of both the guerrilla forces and the pig agencies and be vigilant about discerning the differences between the two. Only through mutual support/criticism will revolutionaries on the different fronts be able to maintain the unity necessary for our movement's survival and its ultimate victory.

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your life for the People."

-- George Jackson

DEATH TO THE FASCIST INSECT THAT PREYS UPON THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE.

Strategic Command
SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY

THE RED GUERRILLA FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON THE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS BUREAU OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AT 525 MARKET STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FROM THE RED GUERRILLA FAMILY ---

We take this action in response to the pig murder of Popeye Jackson. The ATF, like the FBI and the CIA, is a federal agency charged with the task of intimidating and disrupting revolutionary organizations. Popeye Jackson was the leader of the United Prisoners Union, a revolutionary organization of prisoners-of-war locked down in Amerika's San Quentins and Soledads. Popeye was a revolutionary who actively sought to expose to the people the fascism of the pigs and the necessity of an armed struggle to overthrow the ruling class. Thus it was necessary for this same ruling class to have Popeye murdered, just as it was necessary to kill Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, George and Jonathan Jackson, Cinque and countless other black leaders and revolutionaries.

The exact role of the ATF in Popeye's murder is not yet known. But we do know that at the beginning of June, Brenton Thorne, the head of the ATF office in S.F., announced plans to add 100 agents to ATF offices on the West Coast, principally in the Bay Area and LA, in order to beef up the ATF's counter-insurgency campaign. Popeye, a well-known comrade who publicly worked for unity between the underground and the aboveground, was an obvious target for these pigs. Less than a week after Thorne's announcement, Popeye was dead. Two days later, a phony communique, clearly written by the pigs, attempted to lay the blame for this murder on the New World Liberation Front.

Despite these efforts, the people of California have not been divided by Popeye's murder or deceived by the pig propaganda that surrounded it. The unity of the people and of our guerrilla organizations is stronger than ever. For all the efforts of the ATF and the FBI, these pigs are themselves more vulnerable to attack than are the peoples clandestine guerrilla forces. We applaud the deaths of two FBI pigs on the Pine Ridge reservation, knowing that they were the agents of one of the most vicious ruling classes ever known to humanity. The struggle continues and we continue to build a strong base for the more intense levels of struggle to come. Popeye was impatient with trashing buildings, and wanted the underground to attack the pigs themselves. His life's work of unifying and organizing oppressed peoples has helped to set the stage for the intensification of the people's struggle.

The RED GUERRILLA FAMILY sends greetings of solidarity to the brave warriors of Pine Ridge and Wounded Knee, and to all the guerrilla organizations of the people, in and out of Amerika's political prisons--to the Black Liberation Army, the Symbionese Liberation Army, the Black Guerrilla Family, the Weather Underground Organization, the New World Liberation Front, the Frente de Liberacion Chicano, and the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional de Puerto Rico.

THE PEOPLE REMEMBER POPEYE!
UNITY IN STRUGGLE!
LIFE AND FREEDOM TO THE PEOPLE!



FROM U.P.U.

We stand in solidarity. The recent bombing is a strong statement for unity between the overground and underground. The latest action complements the overground, in return we should support them.

If the left fails to respond, the silence is used as a response by the pigs. No stand is a stand for the opposition. It lets the enemy create division. We don't want a worker hurt - he's one of our class. But the possible injury of a janitor shouldn't be used to alienate other working class people. The conditions of this country is what endangers people, and the ruling class is responsible for that. We feel this is not a contradiction of Popeye's stand on indiscriminate bombing because it was a direct hit against a pig institution.

POPEYE'S MURDER

"BLOOD IN OUR EYES"

The following communique was sent to media by the Black Guerrilla Family, an underground organization within the California prisons. In recent communiques, the New World Liberation Front requested that the BGF put forth an analysis concerning the murders of Popeye Jackson and Sally Voyer, and this message is in response to that.

TO THE PEOPLE:

This is long in coming because we had decided not to become involved. However, due to the conflict and speculations which have risen, we feel it is necessary to clarify our position and give an objective opinion.

First, we did not, in any way or form, consent to the action that was initiated against Popeye Jackson and Sally Voyer.

Revolution is by no means a pleasant task and it is not to be used to serve personal ends. It depicts the sad state of Capitalism/Capitalist Society. Revolutionaries are principled, and take great care in not harming innocent people, as the objective is to eradicate the forces which and that oppress the people.

We feel that the murder of Popeye Jackson and Sally Voyer was the work of the pigs.

As to the murder of Sally Voyer, there is no justification to the left. . . especially the guerrilla army, but it serves the pigs' interests to create confusion within the left and to maintain control through that confusion.

The charges lodged against Popeye, we feel, are void of foundation. If not, we demand a factual root of proof.

The constant attacks of the Adult Authority does not appear to be favored treatment. Since when has harassment become favored treatment? The pigs have little else to do but set up special divisions of harassment to persecute those who are out front struggling above ground.

Putting one in jail on petty crimes further impoverishes the poor and is a setback to any forward progress. It has been an easy process to isolate Popeye with information known only to a select few.

It is a general fact that pigs use trivial charges to show a tendency or propensity for a high criminal mentality.

Popeye had done 19 years inside the walls and to return him for petty crimes is contrary to the spouted illusion of rehavilitation which in an aspect means if a man commits a lesser crime than the one he originally entered prison for, prison has served a purpose, to an extent.

Popeye was involved in an area of social reform which is a step to consciousness raising. As far as we know, he was informing (making aware) the outside of things within, inside, and their relationship. This type of work places one in a position of having a constant tail by the pigs, which leads to harm--murder! So, in this respect, many who work aboveground, must be more security conscious to go, function, underground.

As for Popeye's lifestyle, we have to understand that this is Amerikkka: the concrete jungle. One must fit within the given terrain or identify with those of his immediate circle. With the economic situation as it is and Popeye having a defunct prison trade, it is likely he did much wheeling and dealing to survive. Not that we justify this process. In fact, we are against it completely. But, if one only knows one way to survive until something better comes along, we expect him to survive or. . . do we ask him to lay down and die?

The charges of Popeye being an agent, a snitch, could easily have been substantiated by entrusting him with false information known only to a chosen few. And in relation to the charge of what did he inform and on who and if this was known, to what degree was it detrimental!

Not that it is necessary to substantiate degree for our purposes, but to expose these accusations to the people because they must know!!

We are not convinced, due to our association and personal knowledge of his background during his stages of incarceration, that Popeye Jackson was a snitch. Investigation from without, by our guerrilla forces, was conducted and no claim was made that Popeye was a snitch.

His support to the prison movement remains strongly embedded in the hearts and minds of the incarcerated classes. His support to prison relations and to fight injustice to prisoners on many levels is not forgotten. could also work to the contrary and be a tactical play by the pigs to give the alleged charges against him authenticity. It is

unlikely the assassin, if caught, will confess to the crime of violence since it is more than likely that he was under orders.

We condemn this particular act and urge the people to be more objective in their analysis

of situations of this nature, to prevent future murders of personnel in the grossal intention to serve as an enhancement and not a destructive force, as the pigs have managed to achieve their goals. Prevent these acts before they materialize.

Struggle to live and live to fight and fight to win.

In the spirit of Comrade George Jackson,

LONG LIVE THE GUERRILLA!!

Black Guerrilla Family

FROM THE ABOVEGROUND

STATEMENT ON POPEYE'S DEATH

June 17, 1975

Historically, those who dare to struggle and oppose the injustices of a society that places profit before the needs of its people; those who fight racism, those who fight for an end to oppression and a just place for all to live have been snatched from among us.

It is for these very reasons that we exist as a committee; today - out of the assassination of George Jackson almost four years ago in San Quentin. Six brothers stand trial today to cover up the state's acts and we must defend their most basic rights.

We clearly recognize the factors resulting in the mysterious calculated death of our comrade Popeye, who relentlessly struggled to end the oppression of prisoners. We say to all freedom loving people - commit yourself to the struggle for human dignity. Pick up the banner for justice as has been so ably demonstrated before us. Fight, so that we may live in true brotherhood. Unite in our common struggle.

Dare to struggle!! Dare to win! as was so reverently said by Popeye.

Free the San Quentin Six!!

Free all Political Prisoners.

San Quentin Six Defense Committee

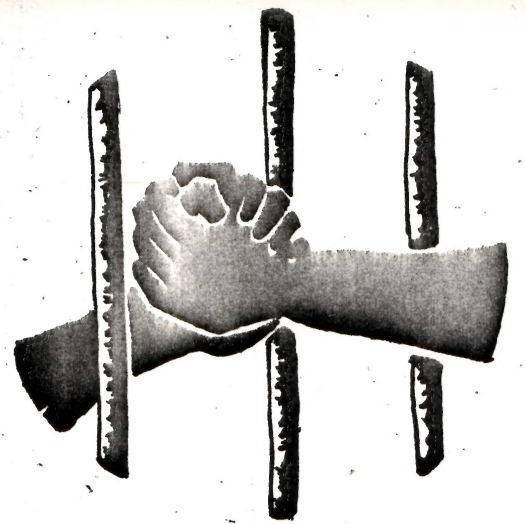
June 11, 1975
FIGHT THE SET-UP

Last night the San Francisco Examiner received a communique--supposedly from the New World Liberation Front. The communique took credit for the assassination of Popeye Jackson.

IT IS OBVIOUS TO US FROM THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE, PREVIOUS NWLF PRACTICE, AND THE MANNER OF DELIVERY OF THE COMMUNIQUE THAT IT IS A PHONY, PROBABLY PUT OUT BY THE PIGS AS A TACTIC TO DIVIDE THE LEFT, CREATE SUSPICION,---ANOTHER PHONY EXCUSE FOR THE HARRASSMENT, INVASIONS, GRAND JURIES, AND OTHER ATTACKS ON OUR COMMUNITIES!!

The NWLF has done many actions in the past year---after each, they have immediately (not 2 days later) issued a communique explaining their action. These communiques have been sent to community media with leftist politics. To deliver a communique to the Examiner a media tool of the ruling class would be absurdly inconsistent.

The text of the "communique" contains many phrases that seem to be lifted straight from the previous (June 3) NWLF communique with no political understanding of the issues involved. The June 3 communique contained four criticisms/questions about Popeye. These criticisms were made in a manner clearly indicating that the NWLF wanted and expected a response. Nowhere was there a threat against Popeye's life. Had they offed Popeye, the NWLF, undoubtedly been very specific in their analysis of the action, rather than simply stating--as the phony communique does--that the fact of his recent light jail sentence for



petty theft proved that the pigs were his firends. In addition, the explanation for the death of Sally Voyer was unprincipled and superficial -- clearly inconsistent with NWLF practice.

A PHONY COMMUNIQUE IS JUST THE SORT OF TOOL THAT THE PIGS WILL USE AS AN EXCUSE TO HARRASS THE LEFT AND TRY TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE UNDERGROUND AND ABOVEGROUND. WE CALL ON ALL ELEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT TO UNITE PUBLICLY, PREPARE FOR NEW PIG HARRASSMENT, AND PUBLICLY CONDEMN THESE DIVISIVE TACTICS.

WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE UNITED PRISONERS UNION AND THE NEW WORLD LIBERATION FRONT.

BAY AREA RESEARCH COLLECTIVE.

POPEYE'S SPIRIT LIVES

We in Viet Nam Veterans Against the War Winter Soldier Organization are shocked and moved to tears over the loss of POPEYE JACKSON.

HIS MURDER IS NOT ONLY A LOSS TO HIS COMRADES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS, BUT ALSO A LOSS TO ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WHO ARE STRUGGLING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND INDEPENDENCE!

We will continue the struggle in the spirit of Popeye Jackson.

POPEYE'S PRIMARY ENEMY WAS THE STATE AND THE RULING CLASS IT REPRESENTS. WHOEVER MURDERED POPEYE AND SALLY VOYE ACTED AS THE AGENT OF THESE FORCES!

We will do all we can to bring to justice those responsible for this crime. We will resolutely resist any attempt by the state to create another campaign of harassment, intimidation, and division of left forces in the Bay Area.

V.V.A.W./W.S.O. East Bay Chapter
4919 Telegraph, Oakland, Ca., 94609

To the United Prisoners Union

Dear Comrades,
The Prairie Fire Organizing Committee shares a profound sense of loss with the family, friends, and comrades of Popeye Jackson and Sally Voyer, and expresses deep anger over their murder.

It is clear who benefits from the murder of revolutionaries. It is the State that has been responsible for countless past murders of revolutionaries. The State tried many times to eliminate Popeye's leadership. It is the State that benefits from his death. The State also benefits from dividing the people's movement and from discrediting revolutionary struggle. The State benefits from allowing quarrels among the people to outweigh the need for unity against our common enemy.

Popeye Jackson was a revolutionary brother and a righteous voice of anger for prisoners locked down in Amerika's concentration camps. Popeye knew the American system of injustice well, as a Black man and as a member of the convicted class.

Popeye was a founder of the United Prisoners Union and tirelessly exposed the crimes of the Adult Authority, the indeterminate sentence, and the whole system of so-called "corrections" before the public. Like all members of the UPU Popeye was a dedicated worker who gave his time and energy for the movement, not for personal gain. Popeye was very up-front and never hid his political views from anyone. He was deeply respected and loved by many people and deeply hated and feared by our enemies.

The people's movement against US imperialism will continue to struggle and grow until final victory. Then we will build the kind of society Popeye would want for his children. Let us turn our sorrow and anger at the death of comrades into work for the people.

PRAIRIE FIRE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

June 13, 1975

Noe Valley Law Office
3993 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

As the Attorney for Popeye Jackson during his last parole revocation hearing and his conviction for Petty Theft which has been the subject of much speculation in recent days, I feel that the record should be set straight on certain points which have been prominently mentioned in connection with Popeye's death.

Popeye in fact pled guilty to a charge of Petty Theft with a prior (Section 667 Calif. Penal Code, San Francisco Municipal Court #R120740) and was sentenced to 60 days in the County Jail, a severe sentence for a minor shoplift. Every legal maneuver that was possible was used to delay the case until Popeye's parole expired. After over five months, Popeye pled guilty upon the following conditions:

1. Popeye would plead guilty to the Petty Theft charge and serve 60 days in the County Jail with two years Court Probation;
2. Execution of sentence would be stayed until his parole expired; and if revocation proceedings were begun, his guilty plea could be withdrawn.

As Popeye's attorney I advised him to enter into this agreement upon my belief that it was the wisest thing for him to do in light of his desire to remain free from incarceration so that he may devote his time and energies to the causes of the People. Only the usual considerations of risk of conviction and length of incarceration were given in Popeye's decision to plead guilty to this offense, and any statement to the contrary is without foundation.

Although the Adult Authority could have moved to revoke Popeye's parole they chose not to do so. The motivation on the part of the A.A. was very simple and easy to understand. They were fighting for their very existence, as there was a bill in the Legislature at the time which threatened to abolish them. The bill was receiving more support than they had anticipated, and the last thing that they wanted was another large scale revocation hearing with attendant demonstrations and adverse publicity. It should be remembered that several politically powerful figures supported Popeye in his last struggle with the A.A. (Ken Meade, Ron Dellums, Willie Brown, and Cecil Williams to name a few). The A.A. simply did not wish to take a chance on its continued existence in order to put Popeye back in prison.

This statement is offered with the hope that it will clear a record which is becoming more confused each day. The matters referred to are within my personal knowledge and feel a duty to make them public. If there is any direct evidence of Popeye's alleged cooperation with either the A.A. or the S.F. Police Dept., such evidence should be produced. It is my firm belief that there is not now, nor will there ever be, evidence of cooperation between Popeye and the A.A. or the Police. Popeye is no snitch.

Judd Riley Scott. Attorney at Law

June 11, 1975

Popeye Jackson's family's response to the latest news releases on his character and personal wealth.

1. Popeye Jackson and his son were on welfare.
2. His car was a Cadillac --a 13 year old car, which should have been in a junk yard 5 years ago. The car, at this time, is parked in a service station, not in running condition.
3. Popeye liked to dress nice, but he did not spend a lot of money on clothes because he didn't have it. Most of his shirts were made for him by friends. If people could recall seeing him at any rally or speaking engagement, they could see that he was not elaborately dressed.
4. His family is of modest means. We are struggling to meet the funeral expenses. We are hoping that people will respond to the trust fund appeal so that his son and child to be born will have something for the future.
5. Popeye paid his dept in full to society.
6. We would like him to be remembered as a fighter for the rights of all oppressed and working class people--not a police cooperative, lunatic, or opportunist.

For a true brother of the people:

by Mickey Tyler June 8, 1975

Cold bullets can't put the fire out of your warm heart.
They were dead when they left the gun,
They are dead in the hand of the investigator,
But the tiny feet of your baby kick at the walls of its small prison,
Your baby will escape with your blood to keep it alive,
Your child will carry your love and your courage into a world of war.

Your son, small soldier, asks where his father is
But you are there in his small face,
You are there in his strong voice, asking so many questions
Why
Why do all the liars and thieves and murderers live on
Why are all the brave men and women killed
For refusing to be weakened
For refusing to be enslaved
For demanding freedom
For helping the people see the truth,
See the walls that must be destroyed before we can be reborn.

Some thought those bullets would shut you up forever
But your voice is recorded in the voice of your children,
Your life is planted in the minds of the people,
Your soul is rooted in the hearts of the convicts
Who will fight until the living dead rot in their own corruption
We will carry on the work you have done
We will hold your spirit like a chain of gold between us
A silent but powerful union -
Our weapon of death for the assassins.
You who have struggled for so long
Your victory is in the hands of your children,
It is in our hands
And together our hands will touch the full belly
And feel the kick of a new life
As you felt it
Our hearts will feed it the love you fed to us
We will speak the truth as you have given us the courage to do.

The bullets that passed through your flesh
Lit a fuse
And the explosion that will come can only bring death
To those who survive by the suffering of the people.

FOR A FALLEN WARRIOR

POPEYE JACKSON stood in the elevator doorway, bending his long frame to proudly hold the hand of his small brown son.

POPEYE JACKSON sat crosslegged atop the counter in the attorney's visiting room at the jail, loose and calm. Five unjust days in the hole meant only time to read and write poems. His whole face grinned, eyes sparkling, so I knew that this was simple truth, no boast. For one brief fleeting moment, I let myself imagine how good it would feel to make love to him.

POPEYE JACKSON leaned back in his chair in the project meeting room, fiercely denouncing how gay prisoners were abused by the jail staff, how they were isolated on one tier and allowed out last--if at all--to see the jail doctor.

POPEYE JACKSON lay sprawled in a car, shot dead.

One more black warrior gunned down in the night.
Gone the route of Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Martin Luther King, John Huggins, Bobby Hutton, Fred Hampton, W.D. Nolen, George Jackson, Cinque, and countless others less well known.
One dubious account of a "lone assassin's gun."
One more murder to avenge.

A man arises from the ghastly quicksand of needles, guns and cell block bars.
A man emerges from the deep rut carved by juvenile commitment at age 10, 19 years in prison.
Some call him pimp, say he ran a harem, dealt heroin, could not be trusted.
But POPEYE JACKSON fought for people, loved people, struggled toward racial unity, dug the rising strength of women.
POPEYE JACKSON came to all the meetings (except when he was in jail), all the interviews,

all the confrontations--while the other sometimes forgot or made excuses.
POPEYE JACKSON cared.
POPEYE JACKSON tried.
POPEYE JACKSON grew before my eyes.

I started with the racist media image of a posturing macho dude.
I came to know and love a warm and gentle man.
I came to love him, never told him, then they killed him, shot and killed him.
And I mourn him, POPEYE JACKSON.

Brian Glick
June 9-10, 1975



FROM THE INSIDE

From the Inmates of the San Bruno County Jail, In Memory of Popeye Jackson

Popeye was a man deeply committed to his comrades in the weary and ever-present struggle towards unity and freedom. His activities concerning those of us incarcerated by a system of distorted values were always executed with the utmost revolutionary spirit. He was a man obsessed with freedom, for it was freedom that was forever denied us. And he was blessed with the will, and the love of his comrades, to commit actual Struggle!

To Popeye from fellow inmates and comrades
With love, and due respect...

The Doc

6/11/75

Popeye Jackson was our eight personal friend and revolutionary comrad to fall victim to fatal State terrorism during this last year, in Calif. Do people still ask themselves "Why"? If anyone had the slightest doubt as to who his murderers are, the fake communique claiming credit proves pig guilt. Fascist "Law and Order" is deliberate! That bogus communique shows the swine's thought-out plan to further divide and intimidate the Left.

Popeye understood the viciousness of this maggot-infested beast and put his life-energies into educating the people in the Bay Area and his imprisoned brothers and sisters about the need to destroy it. Popeye was a flesh and blood threat to the racist foundations of the militarily-armed corporate State the attempted so hard and so unsuccessfully to intimate him. He was set-up time and again with swine informers and trumped-up charges. They pulled every trick in their bag of repression but never succeeded in terrorizing him into passive silence.

We have worked with Popeye and on the defense committees that fought against the State's attempts to railroad him back to prison. Some concerned friends told him to be cool or his parole would be revoked and he answered "Fuck parole", fully understanding that if he was sent back to the joint he'd never see light again. After 19 years behind bars, he knew what it meant to be a Black man, with revolutionary politics, in California's concentration camps. He held no romantic ideas about prison life/death but he also had no delusions concerning the oppression/murder of his people in racist Amerikkka.

Anyone who ever heard Popeye rap knows that he talked revolution and never lied about a liberal or non-violent solution. When White liberals, claiming to be revolutionaries, turned their backs on him and ran in fear of losing their skin and class privileges, he kept on. While no other well-known Bay Area "Leftist" would openly support the rising tide of guerrilla activity by the NWLF, CLF, RGF, BLA and SLA--Popeye stepped out-front to publicly explain the necessity of revolutionary violence. He remembered Lil' Bobby Hutton and

Fred Hampton. He knew and lived with the reality of being politically assassinated and understood the position he was put in by the running dog, cowards who split when they realized that revolution was not an intellectual game. Popeye chose to stand and fight rather than crawl away in fright.

We don't pretend to not have criticisms of Popeye. We have them as we have criticisms of everyone on the Left, including each other. But it is absurd to even consider that revolutionaries would kill Popeye, over political questions and criticisms, while at the same time doing everything possible to insure the safety of innocent persons in the area of their political bomb attacks. If Chris Thompson or Jane Alpert were found dead, the conclusions would be obvious and welcome but only the enemy gains from the murder of Popeye.

So here we are again seething with rage because of the vicious murders of Popeye Jackson and Sally Voyer. The enemy laughs at factional bickering and murders our comrades. Again we call for revolutionary support and unity with the underground so that it can grow strong enough to draw pig blood in defense of innocent lives. Comrad George taught us that there must be funerals on both sides--Under fascism the only justice is the fire of revolutionary justice, the only power coming from the barrel of a gun.

Give leaflets to the people and bullets to their enemies!!!

Joe Remiro and Russ Little

This does little to express our true rage and sorrow but it is the only means still open to us. We feel it is important to show solidarity and combat pig lies. Do what you feel is best with this and know that we and our friends are ready to offer any support that you all need. Waiting to hear from you (we move from here soon).

Joe and Russ

STRUGGLES ON THE INSIDE

"For My People"

For my people everywhere singing their slave songs repeatedly: their dirges, their ditties and their blues and their jubilees praying their prayers nightly to an unknown god, bending their knees humbly to an unseen power;

For my people lending their strength to the years, to the gone years and the now years and the maybe years, washing, ironing, cooking, sewing, mending hoeing plowing digging planting pruning patching dragging along never gaining never reaping never knowing and never understanding

For the cramped bewildered year we went to school to learn to know the reason why and the answer to and the people who and the places where and the days when in memory of the bitter hours when we discovered we were black and poor and small and different and nobody cared and nobody wondered and nobody understood.

Jacquetta Davis
Raleigh, N.C.

BLA sister denied medical rights

NORFOLK--A leader in the Black Liberation Army, Safiya Bukhari (sn Bernice Jones) continues to suffer extreme harassment from Virginia prison officials following her frame-up imprisonment by a Norfolk, Va., court.

Sister Bukhari was sentenced to 40 years in prison on phony charges of robbery, attempted murder, and possession of a machine gun after the white owners of Green's market in Norfolk had opened fire on her and two of her comrades while they were shopping.

One BLA member, William Butler, was murdered, and Safiya and Masai Ehezzi (sn William Gibson) were charged and sentenced to 40 years each in order to cover up the murder of Butler, and as the prosecutor said to the jury, "...to get a message to these kind of people to stay away from Norfolk."

Now the racist prison system of Virginia is making an effort to slowly assassinate Safiya Bukhari by denying her essential medical treatment. Five days after her arrival at the women's concentration camp in Goochland, Virginia, Safiya was told by a doctor that she had a fibroid tumor in her womb. Besieged with pain, she finally got the prison doctor to see her.

"He asked me how much time I had. . . I told him 40 years; he said, 'Come back to see me in 10.'"

Sister Bukhari has filed a petition in Federal Court demanding the specialized medical treatment that she needs. Her petition was denied last week by U.S. District Court Judge John Mackenzie who claimed that the denial of needed medical treatment does not amount to "cruel and unusual punishment." He's right, it is not unusual, but its cruelty is proven by the scores of inmates who have died over the years in Virginia prisons due to lack of proper medical treatment.

Letters of protest can be sent to: Jack Davis, Director, Division of Corrections, 429 S. Belvidere St., Richmond, Va. 23220.

TO THE PEOPLE

I sit here day after day waiting the unknown that will follow, to continue the reality of my struggle for liberation. My thoughts ramble into uneventful hours with no verbal facts or opinions to alter their course. My actions which have promoted this incarcerated situation, have been plundered and relived with no justification for the actions of my keepers. Assumptions and expectations are worthless, my schedule is unknown because it is controlled by my keeper, yet even in my blindness I am not afraid nor weak. Perhaps I am lonely, bored or tired, but it's a good feeling, for it is for a cause.

Today marks the sixth-sixth-week of my incarceration here at Western Correctional Center. I, along with 25 others, who fought and stood for our lives on June 15-19, 1975 at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women. We have stood patient through this political experiment performed by the N.C. Correction Department staff. We have not changed our position or determination in our attempt to expose the department and its deceit to the people. We were not willing to stop for the many pacifiers that have been offered us, instead we offer ourselves as guinea pigs to be used as the tools of the people, to destroy the now corrupt political ballgame of the corrections department that uses the oppressed people as equipment.

Despite of all the temporary defeats, the discrimination, the prejudice, the deceitful efforts of the keepers to alter or prevent us, we will educate the people of the political corruption and misconduct of those who make the governing policies of the system. Our intentions are to convince the people these actions taken against us were politically motivated, to maintain the silence that has persisted in the department for

years. Our hopes are that the unjust actions the state has performed against us (the representatives of the oppressed) will motivate the people to counter-attack and seek justification for their murderous deeds.

We have staked our very lives on the continuation and further development of the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed. Our "love" for the people strengthens our decision daily, this motivation is greater than the materialistic one that our keepers have. It's a feeling that makes you feel the blows aimed at our sister's head, a feeling that assures you each day you sit in this 7 by 6 foot cell, it's a contribution to the people, a feeling that makes you feel pride in your loyalty to your sisters; a feeling that lets you say with confidence, I am somebody, a feeling that brings a tear of happiness to receive word of a minor victory, a feeling that you are free, at least in the mind, a feeling of pride in the strong unity that grows daily and this love is a feeling that makes you know the life you have devoted to the struggle will not be in vain.

As the previous days go by, we await tomorrow and summarize the past six weeks as an attempt on the Correction Department's part, to silence its' victims of the unjust actions that were ordered by the Department and approved by the state's governor. Our destiny hence depends not on the keepers of our body, but the participation of the people, in this our struggle for liberation from the oppressors. There's much more involved in this than merely a convict bucking the penal discipline procedures, that's not the issue. This is the door of corruption opened to allow the exterminator (the oppressed peoples) to enter to deal with and bring a new cleanser on the market--Unity and Love.

My life is your tool--use me as an example of the racism, sexism, and discrimination of the oppressors of our land. Stand with me, my brothers and sisters, that we may lift the depression and oppression from the oppressed peoples. Much love to the people.

PAMOJA TUTA SHINDA EUSI UNOJA

Revolutionary in Arms,

Marjorie Marsh
July 25, 1975

PAT SWINTON KEEPS THE FAITH

By Joyce Betries

On March 12, 1975, FBI agents arrested Pat Swinton at her place of work in Brattleboro, Vermont.

To her friends in Vermont, Pat's name was Shoshana, the name she now prefers. She had helped to start the women's center in Brattleboro and lived at Parker Corner Farm, the longest existing commune in the area. Her excessively high bail--\$200,000--was met in part by the commune members, who put up their farm as collateral.

In 1969, when the antiwar movement was at a peak of activism, Shoshana was indicted for conspiracy to bomb federal properties, attempt to bomb U.S. Army trucks, and possession of explosives with intent to bomb U.S. Army trucks.

The government charged that she was part of a conspiracy that included Sam Melville (who was killed by state police during the Attica prison rebellion), David Hughey, and Jane Alpert. Shoshana has pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. If convicted she faces up to 30 years in prison.

Shoshana has been a familiar figure in the New York movement. She did research for the North American Committee on Latin America (NACLA) into corporate and government interference in Latin America, and was a frequent participant in antiwar demonstrations and direct action projects.

Shoshana needs support. It is estimated that a strong legal defense may cost up to \$40,000. Additional funds may be needed to combat the grand jury investigations and to provide legal help for those subpoenaed. Shoshana says:

"As a woman I have felt the frustration and humiliation of sexism. In fighting against it, I have gained strength and an understanding of the necessity for each person to combat oppression on all levels. The struggle against sexism is part of the same struggle against racism and capitalism--imperialism--it is all one. Therefore I support by Attica brothers and victims of the prison system across the country, my sisters and brothers underground--in short, I proclaim my solidarity with people everywhere who participate in the struggle for human dignity and liberation.

"I could never betray this solidarity by abandoning these principles nor by in any way cooperating with, or aiding the forces which seek to divide and destroy us. It is our vision they want to wipe out. If we stand together, they will fail."

Please send donations and requests for further information to: Shoshana (Pat Swinton) Defense Committee, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

ONLY THE BLUES IS AUTHORIZED

Nobody knows how I feel this evening
For how can I tell them when

only the blues is authorized
and those sounds can't be forced
from lips set to scream CHARGE!

I am a general without an army,
unadorned, unrecognized.

I am a soldier
of the people, from the people
yet the people know me not.

For,

except in the dreams of their children,
I do not exist!

For only their children dream
of a Great people
in a Great time.

The "mature" citizenry
grinning from the day's take of crumbs
or head bowed in servitude
will not--cannot hear

the clarion call to arms
to revolt against oppression
to war of liberation

for they are "peaceful" in their misery
in their pacification
in their deprivation.

Were I to rise up in the night
and approach their door
they would ask "who goes there?"
and would not know the knock
of their own son.

I would look strange to them
their soldier-son

for I would look like the concrete
I've had so long next to my skin.

And the steel would be my voice
and my touch would be tough
from holding chains for so long.

And they would see the ice from the cold
of a sunless dungeon.

But through it all--underneath
the layers of hardness and hate
they would see love

the unquenchable raging fire
that has somehow survived through
all of this.

But how can I tell them
when only the blues is authorized?

J.E. (Keisu)

EDITORIAL

UNITED PRISONERS' UNION



WHERE WE STAND

In solidarity UPU responds with comradely greeting to various underground organizations for their communiques, (some of which are reprinted in this newspaper), questions, and criticism around the killing of Popeye. We also feel good about messages received from individual brothers and sisters on both sides of the walls, and from a variety of overground organizations that included: BAY AREA RESEARCH COLLECTIVE, P.O.W. OFFENSE/DEFENSE, V.V.A.W/WSO, CENTRO DE CAMIO, WHITE PANTHER PARTY, S.W.P., SAN QUENTIN SIX DEFENSE COMMITTEE, A.I.M., PRAIRIE FIRE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

We were concerned that the pigs would take advantage of our disunity, in the way they exploited some of the Left's response to the SLA. But the call for unity was a victory for the prison movement, the underground and overground. Righteous actions of the NWLF, and other underground groups must be complimented so that the pigs cannot oink in our silence.

Few questions remain unanswered that can be answered with proof. The NWLF communique about Popeye's "capitalist trappings," a second hand leather coat, and a 13-year-old Cadillac, have received comments about the NWLF's lack of understanding of the culture Popeye came from. Most working and lumpen people relate to the oppressed communities they are from, as do the imprisoned, even if they dress to feel uptown, when on the mainline. But more important was the suspicion that developed of Popeye because state pig forces failed to imprison him by way of a parole violation, after he was found not guilty of a narcotic charge, and more recently after pleading guilty to a \$20.00 "petty-with-prior." It is naive and romantic to believe that when revolutionaries get out loose it is because they turned over on the people. Popeye's lawyers pointed out that it's not "preferred treatment" to be attacked and that the jail time he did was too long under the circumstances. But UPU also believes in the power of the people, and that our support and rage determines what the enemy does, and therefore our numbers had an effect upon Popeye's release. Hanging a phoney snitch jacket trashes the work of comrades. UPU's position is that you don't criticize a rat, you prove it, and deal with it.

Following Popeye's murder, with the worst intentions, came Sara Jane Moore, alias Sally Moore, with a letter, "from a comrade," to the Barb. This admitted informer claims Popeye treated her "like shit". Because UPU never assumed she was a comrade, we criticize ourselves for letting her hang around, while trying to "get over" on her, thus leaving ourselves open to retaliation. She was able to distort where he was coming from, twisting a fact that Popeye's life was involved in communities where drugs are a reality. She also claimed Popeye was a go between for Randolph Hearst and the SLA, but doesn't say what information he could possibly give up.

Police and press slander combined for the opportunity to put forth their poisonous garbage. They offered nothing, unless we were to believe the opposition's views and interests do not conflict with ours. The Left should pay less attention to what the lackeys come out with, and more attention to what casts suspicion among us, since what splits us apart is our common enemy's interest. Disunity comes before unity, but for what needs to be done we must unite with all, except when that unity means to cease.

Although we refuse to cooperate with the pigs' investigation of Popeye's friends, acquaintances have been harassed anyway. One UPU supporter known as Tita was arrested for carrying a gun by two of San Francisco's most notorious narcos; Deen and Carralles. This time they were participating in a raid of someones' home in the Fillmore's "Pink Palace," when they saw Tita. Remembering Tita from a previous bust gave them reason to illegally stop, search, and seize our sister. Pigs do not fear attacking the people when it doesn't happen to them.

Next, San Francisco black and whites arrested a sister named Sue, in the Mission District for leafletting, after seeing her United Prisoners' Union button. The reason the pigs pressed charges is to scare people away from doing necessary work, and to cut off our means of communication. More recently, UPU was threatened in a way still typical of the pigs. Spray painted on the front of the UPU office was a drawing that appeared to be a Molotov cocktail, with the words "Somebody is watching you." Threats by pigs themselves are all they need to further come down on UPU, but we do not fear any fascist insects. On the other hand we welcome revolutionary focus and comradely criticism that is not a piggish attempt to police UPU.

We are determined to continue building the United Prisoners' Union into a mass based multi-racial organization, with a progressive anti-fascist and anti-imperialist perspective; focus ing on the prison system, the courts, laws, and the police. We want even more to be composed of comrades inside and out, and to include members of various revolutionary organizations to promote principled unity, support, cooperation, and mutual aid for the liberation of the captured and all political prisoners.

It is liberal and opportunist to call only for "reforms," because it is bullshitting away the set up that caused the problem. You cannot change prisons without changing the society that created them. Prisons did not create themselves. Those in chains generally come from the oppressed sectors of the working class or are out of some city ghetto. Prisons in a capitalist country are a tool of the ruling class, to confine and control one class of people, particularly poor and Third World people. They are a weapon against the revolutionary sisters and brothers. We defend the right of oppressed people to rebel against these conditions by whatever necessary forms they choose especially the imprisoned, TW people within the U.S., and poor and working people around the world. We want to be a united effort fighting to expose Amerikkka's concentration camps, while advancing the immediate needs of convicts. An end to beatings, tear gassing, and shock treatment as punishment. An end to the gang of guards known as the "goon squad". An end to the "hole," involuntary transfers out of the way and to set up one convict against the other. An end to instigating racism and sexism to divide the imprisoned. An end to lock-downs, forced and slave-labor of a few cents an hour, if paid at all, by the state's 6th largest industry, the prison empire. An end to strike breaking and the denial of the the right to unionize. We must end the authoritarian, sadistic censors attempting to control the minds of the captured, the lengthy prison terms, and the corrupt prison system itself. If prisons are the capitalist state's defense in the class war, prisoners are our fighters. In return, we must unite to fight. The response on one side of the wall determines the response on the other.

IN THE NAME OF ALL OF US, LIBERATION, IN OUR TIME.

Collectively written by UPU and several recently released ex-convicts.

WHAT IS REVOLUTION

Revolution is the indict the system,
Revolution is to end capitalism,
Revolution is the end imperialism,
Revolution is to end racism,
Revolution is to end fascism,
Revolution is to end sit-ins,
Revolution is to end cry-ins,
Revolution is to end pray-ins,
Revolution is to end colonialism,
Revolution is to change the system,
Revolution is political awareness,
Revolution is political consciousness,
Revolution is refusing tokenism,
Revolution is refusing to be pacified,
Revolution is teaching the masses self-defense,
Revolution is that there be no negotiation,
Revolution is that there is no such thing as non-violence,
Revolution is to destroy everything that gets in the way,
Revolution is that there be no compromise with the ruling class,
Revolution is multi-national unity,
Revolution is unity on all fronts,
Revolution is to continue the struggle,
Revolution is to build a communication base,
Revolution is to build an economic base,
Revolution is to have no fear of dying,
Revolution is preparing to die so that our children may live,
Revolution is a bloody war,
Revolution is organizing the masses,
Revolution is love for the people,
Revolution is total freedom,
Revolution is by any means necessary,
Revolution is understanding all of the above.

Written by a Revolutionary Comrade,
Popeye Jackson
April 9, 1975
San Bruno County Jail

THE ANVIL STAFF: Myrna Somers, M. Nelson,
Sue Williams, Pat Singer, Jean Crossman,
Sleepy Bailey, Mickey Tyler

MEMBERSHIP FORM

UNITED PRISONERS UNION
1899 Oak Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
863-1410/863-1411

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ADDRESS _____

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